

# Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

618 Second Avenue, Suite 1020, Seattle, Washington 98104-2232 • (206)684-0660 • TTY (206)684-0274 • FAX (206)684-0689

*Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County*

## MONTHLY MEETING DECEMBER 9, 2005

### MEMBERS PRESENT

CITY OF SEATTLE	KING COUNTY	UNITED WAY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Coney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Yeager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy, Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/> Joanne Brekke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Verhei	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam John	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Holecek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues, Member-At-Large
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Tu	<input type="checkbox"/> John Barnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timmie Faghin
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rasmussen	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Pitruzzello
<input type="checkbox"/> Houston Brown, Vice-	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Miller
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input type="checkbox"/> Candace Inagi	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant

**Excused Absence** John Barnett, Joanne Brekke, Tom Rasmussen, Houston Brown, Candace Inagi

**Guests** Patricia McInturff, Dianne Kuhn, Sadikifu Akina-James, Amy Astle-Raaen, Audrey Jernigan, Alex O'Reilly, Art Mussman, Murray Meld, Helen Spencer, Martha Becker

**ADS Staff** Pamela Piering, Rosemary Cunningham, Margaret Casey, Linda Wells, Marcy Kubbs

**United Way Staff** Linda Woodall

**King County  
Staff**

## MINUTES

**Timmie Faghin, Chair** convened the Holiday Celebration and Advisory Council (AC) meeting at 12:00 p.m. and invited everyone attending to introduce themselves. New members Michael Miller and Phil Pitruzzello were welcomed to the council and invited to say a few words about themselves.

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In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

## **PROGRAM : Sponsors Remarks and Small Group Sessions**

### **Dianne Kuhn, Associate Vice President, United Way**

Ms. Kuhn reported that last year United Way reviewed their plan to support older adults.

Priorities include:

- Researching hunger in older adults
- Supporting grandparents who are parenting children

Ms. Kuhn thanked Martha Becker for her work on the Advisory Council. Though she has resigned from the Advisory Council she will continue to serve on United Way's Older Adult Impact Council. She also thanked Timmie Faghin for her contributions to the Advisory Council and in particular for serving as chair for the last two years.

### **Patricia McInturff, Director, Human Services Department, City of Seattle**

Ms. McInturff noted that the White House Conference on Aging started today and that she was a representative to the last conference ten years ago. She thanked the Advisory Council for their accomplishments throughout the year including convening a statewide gathering of Advisory Council members, developing the innovative E-newsletter, Seniors Digest, and researching Elder Abuse.

With regard to the City Budget, she noted that the following additional funding has been provided for 2006:

- \$75,000 to increase the capacity of employment services provided by the MOSC
- \$200,000 to provide groceries to low income seniors and those with chronic health conditions
- \$100,000 for Senior Centers
- Almost a 2% inflationary adjustment for City-funded programs

### **Sadikifu Akina-James, Director, Community Services Division, King County**

Ms. Akina-James reported that Jackie MacLean the King County Sponsor is on vacation and regrets being unable to attend today's meeting. King County is proud to be a Sponsor and appreciates the partnership it has with the other Sponsors in responding to the needs of older adults in our community. She indicated she is hopeful that the position of King County Aging Program Coordinator will soon be filled. This will help facilitate King County's appointment of members to the Advisory Council. She is also hopeful that the convening of the Healthy Family Task Force will ultimately result in King County permanently funding Human Services.

### **Break out groups by Sponsoring Organization**

Those in attendance broke into small groups by Sponsoring agency. This provided Sponsors an opportunity to discuss in more detail issues of concern to them and to hear the concerns of their appointees.

### **United Way**

Ms. Kuhn reported that United Way, completing their most successful fundraising ever, just raised \$100 million. This is a significant increase over previous years, and with their low overhead of 6.4%, \$28.6 million is available for as yet undetermined services. United Way is wondering how to repeat this success.

In response to a question from Martha Becker about the priority of homelessness, Ms. Kuhn indicated their desired outcome is a 7% reduction in homelessness. She described elements of the ten-year plan to end homelessness and this year's process for dealing with the issue. She indicated next year United Way will look at the priorities of Kinship Caregivers and hunger for older adults. Timmie Faghin praised United Way's support of the Advisory Council and the members they have appointed.

### **City of Seattle**

In response to a question about funding of homeless services, Patricia McInturff clarified that the City has provided the same amount of funding for homelessness in 2006 as in 2005. As part of the long-term strategy to end homelessness some money was moved from homeless services to housing, but it was replaced with other dollars. She reports visiting shelters every Thursday night and seeing both older adults and adults with disabilities on her visits.

Changing demographics, in particular the rise of immigrant populations in Seattle-King County were also discussed. Patricia McInturff indicated that while this change is more pronounced in King County, the City is experiencing this as well. School enrollment data documents 33% of enrolled children are born to parents for whom English is not their first language. Increases are seen among Central European, Somali, Ethiopian, Chinese and Hispanic immigrants. All programs will need to be responsive to these populations.

With regard to advocacy efforts, Ms. McInturff encouraged the Advisory Council to focus not just at the local level, but also at the state and federal level, as actions there could have a significant local impact.

### **King County**

Art Mussman described the Kirkland Senior Council, and mentioned that housing and Aging in Place are a focus of that council. In January, Susan Duncan and Sandra Hartje will present information on Aging in Place to their council. Art indicated that permitting and zoning breaks are being sought in Kirkland to help implement principles of Aging in Place.

Sadikifu Akina-James indicated that the County recognizes the need to develop an aging program funding policy, particularly towards unincorporated King County. When the King County Aging Program Coordinator has been hired, more strategic appointments to the Council, as well as other councils, will be made. As candidates for the councils are considered, diversity will be a key consideration.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **Minutes**

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the November 18, 2005 minutes be approved.

### **Recognition**

Noting Helen Spencer's presence, **Pamela Piering** took a moment to thank Helen for her contributions to the Advisory Council over the years. A certificate of appreciation was presented and she was invited to attend Advisory Council meetings whenever she can.

### **Year-End Report**

**Timmie Faghin** provided a report on the highlights of the Advisory Council's activities during the past year. She thanked members who served on various committees this year including, the 2005 & 2006 Retreat Planning Committees, Outreach & Advocacy Committee, Health Care Task Force, Executive Committee, and the Nominating Committee. She noted the Advisory Council had many successes in 2005 including:

- Lobby Day in Olympia
- Work on Universal Design
- Excellent Monthly Programs
- Hosting two Public Hearings
- Reviewing Area Plan Objectives
- Serving on Review Panels for two RFPs
- Witnessing growth in readers of Seniors Digest from 863 in January to 4,433 in October
- Attending Senior Lobby Conference
- Hosting Statewide Gathering of Advisory Council & State Council on Aging members
- Piloting on-line advocacy tool

The Advisory Council advocated on behalf of a number of issues in 2005 including the Senior Farmer's Market program, 2-1-1 hot line, Adult Day Health rate increase, Senior discounts for the City's Comcast Cable contract and restoring funding for Section 8 Housing. The ad-hoc committee that researched elder abuse is particularly noteworthy as it resulted in the Advisory Council joining the Washington Coalition on Responsible Lending. The Advisory Council also provided testimony at a City Council hearing on elder abuse. One outcome of the hearing was City Council providing funds to the Police Department for another elder abuse investigator.

Timmie expressed her appreciation to a number of people including former members Gabe Cohen, Suzanne Wiley, Martha Becker and Helen Spencer for their years of hard work on the Council. She thanked the Sponsors for their work on behalf of older adults and adults with disabilities in our community, and Pam Piering and her staff for their support. She also expressed appreciation to the members of the Advisory Council for allowing her to serve as Chair for the last two years.

## **COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

### **Communications Committee**

**Timmie Faghin** reported that Seniors Digest continues to be a highly successful project for the Advisory Council.

### **Planning and Allocation Committee**

**Thelma Coney** indicated the committee has not met this month and has nothing to report.

### **Outreach and Advocacy Committee**

**Larry Verhei** reported there was no meeting this month.

### **Health Care Task Force**

**Martha Becker** reported there continue to be problems with Medicare Part D. While participants are limited to one choice of plan per year, pharmaceutical companies are permitted to change their rates several times a year. Larry Low indicated he has received three trainings on Medicare Part D. While he understands the requirements of the program well, he finds it still takes 3-4 hours of computer time to sign someone up.

The committee approved the draft letter written in support of HR 414, Hearing Aid legislation.

**Larry Verhei** reported Representative Jim McDermott will co-sponsor the bill along with over 80 other legislators. He also reported the state of Massachusetts is considering legislation that would provide health coverage for all its residents. While they are not calling it Universal Health Care, that is essentially what provisions of the legislation would provide.

### **State Council on Aging**

There was no report.

### **Retreat Committee**

**Don Moreland** indicated the Retreat Committee spent considerable time at its last meeting discussing the Legislative Forum the Advisory Council will be hosting in the fall of 2006. He indicated it is not too early to begin thinking about it and suggested national budgetary issues as a potential focus for the event because many of the budget cutting proposals being considered would adversely affect seniors. He indicated the Advisory Council's efforts need to be bi-partisan to be successful and recommended scheduling the forum during a Congressional recess to increase the likelihood our representatives can attend.

The 2006 Advisory Council retreat is scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Bastyr University. Eric Jones a professor from Bastyr University will be speaking on "Senior Health & Wellness through Naturopathic Medicine" and Pam Piering will speak on Advisory Council accomplishments over the years. He thanked all who contributed to the planning of the retreat and indicated he looks forward to what will be a rewarding day. Larry Verhei reminded both Advisory Council members and staff who will be attending the retreat, to bring something for the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **Director's Report**

**Pamela Piering** reported on a number of items to the Advisory Council.

1) ADS is scheduled to move into the Seattle Municipal Tower in June or July, 2006. ADS will explore the best meeting place for the Advisory Council including the possibility of meeting at the MOSC in the Central Building.

2) Pam thanked the Advisory Council for all their work this year. She indicated she believes the real strength of the Older Americans Act is the requirement that all the Area Agencies on Aging have an Advisory Council.

3) The W4A has developed a draft list of issues for 2006 which include:

- Supporting Medicaid
- Increasing vendor rates
- Increasing Adult Day Health rates
- Increasing Senior Information and Assistance to address Identity Theft
- Aging Readiness Initiatives including transportation, employment and social services

4) The w4a has hired Jerry Riley as their lobbyist. He has been a lobbyist for many years and is a former State Medicaid Director.

5) The Washington Health Legislative Forum was an inspiring event. Two themes prominent at the forum were:

- Importance of keeping the issue transparent to voters
- Importance of providing health care that is evidence-based

6) Teams from 20 states will be presenting on evidence-based health programs at a conference sponsored by the Agency for Health Research and Quality that will be held February 14-16, 2006. Pam and the University of Washington's Health Promotion Research Center have been invited to present on the PEARLS project.

7) ADS is co-sponsoring a preview showing of "Almost home" a Independent Lens documentary shot in a continuing care community moving from a medical to "holistic" model. It will air on PBS sometime in January. The previewing will be December 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Northwest Film Forum. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to: [rsvp@communitycinemaseattle.org](mailto:rsvp@communitycinemaseattle.org).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

**REGULAR JANUARY, 2006 MEETING CANCELED DUE TO ADVISORY  
COUNCIL RETREAT**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

**Friday, February 10, 2005**  
**12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Alaska Building**  
**618 Second Ave, Seattle, WA 98104**  
**[www.adsadvisorycouncil.org](http://www.adsadvisorycouncil.org)**

Midge Levy, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_